1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Aizawal	1	-	2	2
5	Shillong	2		2	8
6	Tura	1		1	2
	TOTAL:	5	5	7	18

III North East-ll Telecom Circle

(1) 5EKBCs/FTCs provided at Itanagar, Dimapur and Kohima

(2) Bureau Fax and other terminal equipment *i.e.* SFMSS/EKBC Ports, ETPs/FTs etc. provided as under:—

S.No.	Name of District	No. of SFMSS Ports	No. of EKBC Ports	No of B-Fax	No. of ETPs/ FTs	No. of Internet PCOs	EKB
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Itanagar (Papumpare)		1	1	2	_	
2	West Kamang	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	East Siang	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	Dimapur	-	2	1	2	1	6
5	Kohima	-	2	1	2	-	6
6	Churchandpur	-	1	1	-	-	1
7	Imphal West	6	3	2	0	1	2
	TOTAL:	6	9	6	6	2	17

Abbreviations:-

SFMSS	Store and Forward Message Switching System
EKBC	Electronic Key Board Concentrator
B-FAX	Bureau-Fax
ETP	Electronic Teleprinter
FT	Formatted Terminal
FTC	Formatted Terminal Concentrator
EKB	Electronic Key Board

Teledensity in rural areas

3112. SHRIMATI BIMBAR RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether teledensity in rural areas in increasing in proportion to growth of teledensity in urban areas;

(b) what is the extent of cross subsidy involved in implementing rural telephony systems, charging urban consumers more; and

(c) whether the share of Universal Service Obligation Fund is fully utilized in expanding rural telephony in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The growth of teledensity in rural areas has been slower as compared to that in the urban areas. The rural telephony is implemented through the mechanism of Universal Service Obligation Fund. In addition, BSNL has also been reimbursed certain amount of licence fee and spectrum charge each year during 2001-02 to 2004-05.

(c) A sum of Rs. 1841.50 crore, allocated for rural telephony for Universal Service Obligation Fund during 2002-03 to 2004-05 has been fully utilized.

Appointment of software professionals

3113. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that software professionals at the level of Programme assistants/Programmers have not been recruited for many years now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would appoint fresh computer professionals in National Informatics Centre rather than engaging private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) During 2001-02,283 Programme Assistants were recruited hi National Informatics Centre. An advertisement for recruitment for 30 Scientific/Technical Assistants exclusively for North-Eastern District Centre has been released. Approval for filling up of the remaining 209 vacancies due to resignation, retirement and absconding is under considertaion.